

0291 The Newspaper Guild

Executive Registry
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THE NEWSPAPER GUILD

1125 FIFTEENTH STREET, N.W., ROOM 835, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005 202/296-2990

July 21, 1976

George Bush, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
McLean, Virginia

Dear Mr. Bush:

The enclosed resolution concerning CIA use of journalists was passed unanimously by The Newspaper Guild's recent convention in Washington, D.C.

Since then, the CIA has said that no reporter affiliated with a U.S. newspaper would be "hired" for any purpose by the agency. Unresolved, however, is the matter of naming those news executives without whose co-operation the initial transgressions could not so easily have been made.

The Newspaper Guild represents 40,000 news and commercial department employes of newspapers, news services, magazines and related media in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Perlik, Jr.
Charles A. Perlik, Jr.
President

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Affiliated with American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, Canadian Labour Congress, International Federation of Journalists

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Approved For Release 2005/01/12 : CIA-RDP88-01315R000400070067-1
SECRETARY-TREASURER: ROBERT M. CROCKER

CIA USE OF THE NEWS MEDIA

The Central Intelligence Agency's use--and abuse--of the press may not be the most heinous of its activities, but it is certainly one of those most subversive of a free and respected press.

Recent reports of the House and Senate Intelligence committees and the Rockefeller Commission have verified the CIA's use of U.S. reporters, news executives and news organizations for clandestine purposes. This practice undermines the integrity of the press and encourages distrust of all reporters.

The CIA has announced it will not enter into any future paid or contractual relationships with any accredited news correspondent and will end existing relationships "as soon as feasible." But it has declined to end the use of freelancers and stringers, despite official requests from organizations such as the Fund for Investigative Journalism.

The CIA's use of journalists as informants, if not agents, has resulted in a hue and cry for the disclosure of those journalists' names. But there has been little outcry for the names of the news executives largely responsible for these relationships with the CIA, despite revelations that have implicated high officials of such companies as the New York Times and CBS in cooperative arrangements with the agency.

One source quoted by columnist Nat Hentoff as a person involved in the recruitment of reporters for the CIA said that, in his experience, "in every case in which we had a special arrangement with a reporter, management knew about it."

The incongruity of the situation was highlighted by CBS newsman Daniel Schorr, who said that "to focus on the names of newsmen and employees and not the institutional arrangements (and)...the high executives, still unknown, who made it possible" is "a red herring that serves the bosses very well."

The Convention joins other news organizations in demanding that the CIA halt immediately the use of all journalists, including freelancers and stringers, as informants, and deplores the use of press credentials by CIA agents. It recommends that, at the same time, the Convention demand that the CIA disclose the names of all news organizations and executives who bear the responsibility of having cooperated in such an improper use of newsmen, as a means of inhibiting any future inclination to permit misuse of the press.

Adopted by the 43rd Annual Convention
of The Newspaper Guild, in session,
June 28-July 2, 1976, Shoreham Americana
Hotel, Washington, D.C.

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28 July 1976

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DCI,

The Newspaper Guild, affiliated with AFL-CIO, is a "white collar" union. You will remember it under its old name, American Newspaper Guild, which was founded in 1933 and changed its name in 1972. It engages in all of the usual union activities including organizing, collective bargaining, and propaganda. You may also remember that the Guild recently emerged as the winner over the independent Washington Newspaper Union in the NLRB election to determine which organization should be the bargaining agent for Washington Post employees. *noted 7/29/76*

Suggest that no response is necessary to the Guild's transmittal of their annual convention resolution.

[Redacted Signature]

Andrew T. Falkiewicz

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